

8 February 1955

BACKGROUND - ELECTIONS IN ANDHRA

- I. Andhra state formed in Oct 53 from the Telugu-speaking northern districts of Madras state. Population--21,500,000. Large percentage (specific figures not available) are Communists or supporters.
 - A. Andhra is first "linguistic" state in India. Its future is important as an example for other areas, such as parts of Bombay, Madras and the Punjab, where there is a strong desire to form new linguistic states. The Congress Party has stated that other linguistic ^{STATES} would be formed if Andhra experiment successful.
 - B. Andhra state comprises eastern half of India's largest Communist strong-hold (other half being in Hyderabad state). Between '48 and '50, whole area was under Communist control and was recovered by the government only through use of troops and armed police.
 - C. Feb 11 elections will be first held in Andhra. Present legislative assemblymen were moved over from the elected Madras legislature when Andhra created. Andhra legislature has been on shaky grounds from beginning since neither Congress Party nor Communists had clearcut majority.

- II. The Congress-controlled government fell on 6 November 1954 during an opposition effort to repeal prohibition. In a no-confidence vote, two Congressmen and some Independents voted with the opposition, overriding the expressed views of national Congress leadership.
- III. During Andhra elections, 576 candidates will contest total of 196 seats in state legislature (3 Congressmen already elected unopposed). Congress Party contesting 134 seats and its allies 51 more. Communists contesting 169 seats, other opposition parties 47 seats. Independents^{*} contesting 175. — COMMIES CLAIM OVER 100 ; SO DOES CONGRESS: INDEPENDENT ESTIMATES ON COMMIES SAY THEY'LL GET 90 TO 110 SEATS ⊗
* (include SOCIALISTS)